***Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations (FSMO)***

The National Environmental Field Activities Program (NEFAP) Program launched the accreditation of Field Sampling and Measurement (FMSO) organizations in August 2011!

Accreditation provides an objective way of demonstrating that an organization possesses the capability to perform the services they are providing. Accreditation benefits all stakeholders in assuring data of known and documented quality from competent field sampling and measurement organizations. The program is currently working on advocacy to encourage the adoption of the NEFAP accreditation for FSMOs.

Environmental data cannot be guaranteed unless quality is part of all steps of the sample collection and analytical process. The TNI FSMO accreditation program is not currently required by any federal or state agency. At least one state is in the process of revising regulations to adopt a recognized accreditation program for FSMOs as part of its regulatory framework. NEFAP is a voluntary program that is expected to be required through contracts between data users and FSMOs. Contracts may stipulate: “***Sampling and field measurements must be performed by a FSMO accredited to the TNI FSMO Standard Volume by a TNI recognized accreditation body.”***

The National Environmental Field Activities Program (NEFAP) Program launched the accreditation of Field Sampling and Measurement (FMSO) organizations in August 2011! The NEFAP Executive Committee has developed recognition and evaluation procedures to ensure the consistent implementation of the TNI FSMO standards. These procedures and oversight by the Executive Committee allow one accreditation to be accepted everywhere technically competent field activities are required by data users. Currently one Accreditation Body is fully recognized and is accrediting FSMOs to the TNI 2007 FSMO standard. Three other Accreditation Bodies are recognized under this program and are awaiting their first FSO application in order to complete the recognition process. Two other accreditation bodies are expected to apply for recognition.

The NELAC Institute (TNI) Expert Committee for Field Activities (FAC) develops and improves the field accreditation standards with appropriate guidance materials to facilitate implementation and adoption of the TNI FSMO standards on a national and international level. TNI FAC has established requirements for quality and management systems at Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations (FSMO’s) to improve the quality of data collection. The committee is committed to establishing and maintaining an environment for standards development that will ensure continual improvement of field accreditation standards that are aligned with the practical constraints of sampling and field measurement as well as regulatory and industry specific requirements. The FAC is completing work on the updating of the TNI 2007 FAC standards.